River linking projects

1506. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to study the linking of rivers in the country submitted its report and the period if any, fixed therefor;

(b) whether there is any proposal to implement Pamba, Achancoil and Vaippar linking project and whether this project is against the interests of Kerala; and

(c) the reaction of State Government of Kerala thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a Committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other Experts under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with a view to make the process of proceeding on Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) consultative. The role of Committee is advisory in nature and it is required to render its advice to the Government from time to time on various aspects of ILR *viz.* environmental and Socio-economic issue, Rehabilitation & Resettlement, additional studies that may be required, impact of proposed links and adoption of appropriate measures for optimum utilisation of transferred water. The Committee is not required to submit any report.

(b) and (c) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared a feasibility report of transferring surplus water of Pamba and Achankovil situated in Kerala to Vaippar river basin in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Kerala has some reservations on the studies done which have been clarified by NWDA. The Government of Kerala has forwarded a copy of the Resolution dated 6.8.2003 adopted unanimously by the Kerala Legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to give up the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link Project completely.